

NEBRASKA, INSTITUTION FOR THE
FEEBLE MINDED YOUTH, - BEATRICE
- BIENNIAL REPORT -

362.3
N279
1906/08

Nebraska institution for feeble minded
Biennial report.

RESIDENT OFFICERS

A. JOHNSON, M. D. Superintendent
Term ending September 1, 1907

FRANK E. OSBORN, M. D. Physician
Term ending September 1, 1907

FRANK E. OSBORN, M. D. Superintendent
Term beginning September 1, 1907

SAMUEL J. STEWART, M. D. Physician
Term beginning September 1, 1907

SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

MISS LETTIE ADAMS Principal

MISS SARA SANDIDGE

MISS ELIZABETH ROBINSON

MISS ANNA V. COOPER

MISS EMMA HOWARD

MISS CORA SCHARFENBERG

JACK O'DONNELL Band Instructor

WILLIAM POLLOCK Supervisor Boys' Department

MISS HARRIET CRABTREE Supervisor Girls' Department

W. C. ALVORD Supervisor Boys' Department Hospital

MRS. NELLIE ALVORD Supervisor Girls' Department Hospital

MRS. M. DILLON In charge of Sewing Room

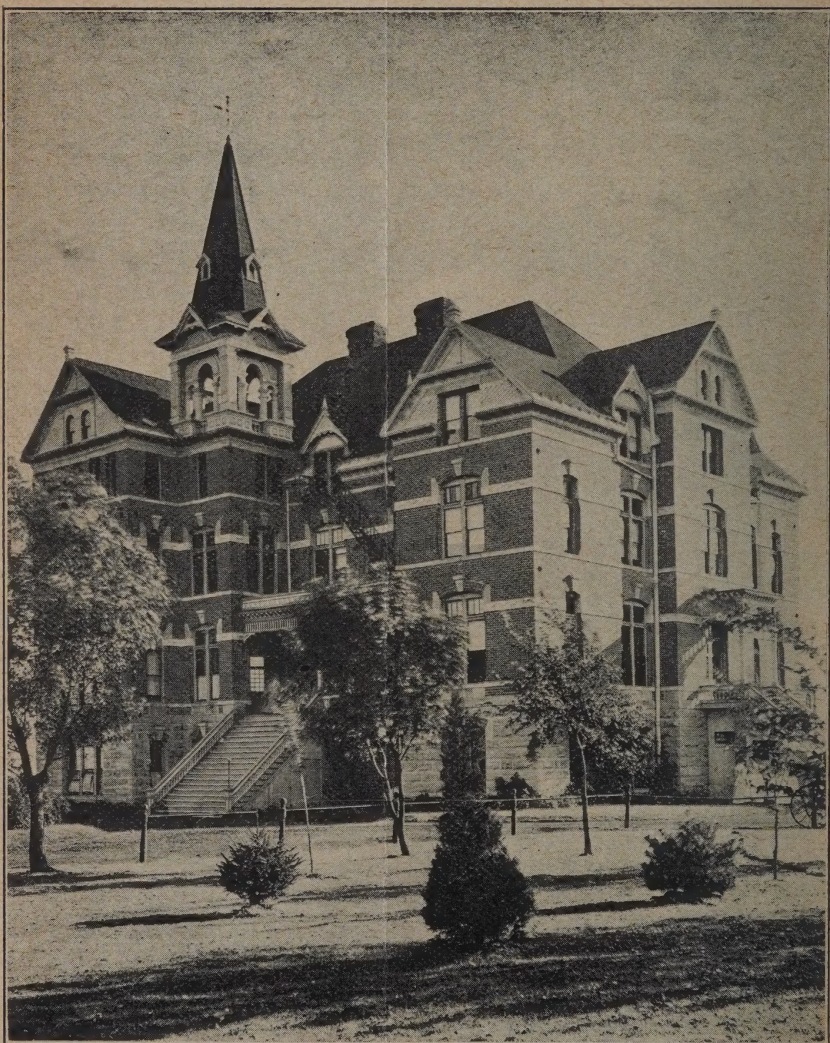
JOHN J. WYATT In charge of Laundry

S. S. BYERLY In charge of Bakery

C. C. SAMS In charge of Farm Department

E. M. RAMEY Chief Engineer

A. SCHULTZ In charge of Carpenter and Brush Department



ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

862.3
1279
1906/08

REPORT

To Hon. George L. Sheldon, Governor of the State of Nebraska, and
the Board of Public Lands and Buildings:

Gentlemen—In accordance with requirements of the law and
your Board, I beg leave to submit the following report exhibiting
statistics, recommendations, and other matters connected with the
administration of the affairs of this institution for the biennium
ending November 30, 1908.

The movement of population, together with the per capita
cost for each semi-annual period, taken from semi-annual reports,
has been as follows:

December 1, 1906 to June 1, 1907

No. enrolled at beginning of period.....	402	
No. admitted and re-admitted.....	38	
No. returned from parole.....	3	443
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No. discharged.....	12	
No. released on parole.....	5	
No. died.....	8	25
<hr/>		
No. remaining at end of period.....		418
Per capita cost.....	\$61.56	

June 1, 1907 to December 1, 1907

No. enrolled at beginning of period.....	418	
No. admitted and re-admitted.....	21	
No. returned from parole.....	12	451
<hr/>		
No. discharged.....	4	
No. released on parole.....	14	
No. died.....	6	24
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No. remaining at end of period.....		427
Per capita cost.....	\$54.15	

December 1, 1907 to June 1, 1908

No. enrolled at beginning of period.....	427	
No. admitted and re-admitted.....	25	
No. returned from parole.....	10	462
<hr/>		
No. discharged.....	3	
No. released on parole.....	7	
No. died.....	23	33
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No. remaining at end of period.....		429
Per capita cost.....	\$62.33	

June 1, 1908 to December 1, 1908

No. enrolled at beginning of period.....	429	
No. admitted and re-admitted.....	20	
No. returned from parole.....	3	452
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No. discharged.....	10	
No. released on parole.....	6	
No. died.....	5	21
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No. remaining at end of period.....		431
Per capita cost.....	\$50.45	

At the beginning of the biennium, December 1, 1906, the total number of inmates enrolled was 402 and at the close of the period the total number was 431, an increase of 29. This increase practically represents the excess at present over our normal capacity as will be mentioned later.

At the beginning of the biennium there were 45 applications on file. Since that time 115 have been received and 102 admitted so that at the present time there are on file in this office applications from 58 individuals anxiously awaiting admission.

No appropriations having been made for new buildings at the meeting of the last legislature, our funds have been used, aside from a few minor improvements and general repairs, for maintenance. There has been expended under this item alone a total amount for maintenance and instruction of children including all expenses except clothing, \$95,045.85, or a total per capita cost for the biennium of \$228.49. While this per capita cost is lower than

for any previous biennium in the history of the institution, it has no particular significance, the reduction being influenced largely by the increase in the population.

At the past rate of expenditure, all of our appropriations will be sufficient until new appropriations are available the first of next April. It has been foremost in the mind of the management to keep within our appropriations. For this institution the appropriations of the 1907 legislature were not extravagant. With a record of the lowest per capita in the state and a gross appropriation figured on this basis—then with a decrease in this amount of practically \$10,000.00 intended by the legislature for our use but lapsed because of the auditor's ruling, we have found that to ride through the biennium without a deficiency in any appropriation would require the greatest care. Thus far, however, we have kept within a pro-rated amount for the period of the biennium and we are confident that no deficiencies will exist in any fund April 1st. I want to state, however, along with this, that our inmates have never suffered in any way for lack of care, food, or the privileges which rightfully belong to them. Still I believe the state ought to deal generously with its eleemosynary institutions and more especially with the feeble minded.

HEALTH AND MORTALITY

The number of deaths for the period was—male, 28; female, 14; total, 42, or $5\frac{1}{4}\%$ per annum, the causes of death being as follows:

Epilepsy.....	15
Tuberculosis.....	6
Valvular disease of the heart.....	5
Pneumonia.....	3
Chololithiasis.....	2
Meningitis.....	2
Nephritis.....	2
Anaemia.....	2
Hereditary Syphilis.....	1
Bright's Disease.....	1
Cerebral Hemiplagia.....	1
General Debility.....	1
Pyemia.....	1

Of this number 40 were custodial cases, the greater number being of exceedingly low vitality.



HOSPITAL BUILDING

While there has been the usual number of minor ailments with which to contend, to our great satisfaction no epidemics have occurred. This result is attributed to a strict enforcement of hygienic and sanitary measures. Ventilation and cleanliness of dormitories and day rooms, encouragement of activity in the manifold duties of the institution, gymnastics, athletics, and manual labor for those who are able, sufficient nutritious, carefully prepared food, and fresh water from a well where contamination is impossible, all are prophylactic measures adopted for the warding off of contagion and the maintenance of health.

Tuberculosis exists in a large percentage in some form or other at the time of admission. Many of these cases can be benefitted and no new cases need develop if the wards are not crowded and segregation is made as soon as the trouble is discovered. At my suggestion our herd of cattle was tested for tuberculosis by an assistant from the department of the State Veterinary in order that we might be sure no trouble was insidiously emanating from the milk. It was pleasing to note that none of the dairy herd were affected and but one other animal showed a questionable reaction. This animal was immediately destroyed.

The medicinal work of the institution is largely prophylactic. It must be so for when our children once become sick they are nearly always seriously sick, due to their normal weakened physical and mental conditions. Then too, "A merry heart doeth good like medicine" so it is our continual aim to keep alive the spark of happiness which illumines so small a part of the lives of our children.

SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

During the period there has been an average in the school department of 210. The majority of these children are between the ages of five and eighteen years, our ages for admission, for practically all that can be accomplished by this class in the school department proper will be within this age limit.

This part of our work is essentially prominent but the results are not altogether satisfactory. There was a time when authorities on the subject considered that by proper training wonderful results could be accomplished and individuals classed as feeble minded could become practically normal. This theory is now exploited for it is only in cases where there was no impairment of the mental functions but rather an inability through environment to acquire

knowledge where these marked results have been attained. It is now generally conceded that a feeble minded individual's training will result only in a relative improvement and that he will never become advanced either as a student or an artisan. This much, however, is certain. Nearly every case, if taken at a proper age, may be benefitted and thus to an extent the burden upon society lightened, and his condition in life improved.

So we attempt in our kindergarten and grade work, by singing classes, band instruction and drills, and through sloyd and industrial work, to develop both mind and the senses to such a degree of proficiency as is possible.

The industrial side undoubtedly affords the greatest opportunities. Here the training of the eye, the ear, and the sense of judgment, and the patience required to produce the finished product are all developmental. In following out this idea I have introduced the making of a bed springfabric, the making of mattresses, carpet weaving, and on a small scale cobbling in addition to the work that was already being done. Besides the advantages of this class of work to the children, it has also been a benefit to the state from a pecuniary standpoint for our springs and mattresses are being used on a large number of our wards and other home made products find use in every department of the institution.

RELIGIOUS EXERCISES

Each Sunday during the school year it has been customary to hold two services in our chapel of an entirely non-sectarian nature. Members of the Ministerial Association of Beatrice talk to the children in the afternoon and in the forenoon a Sunday School service is held where illustrated truths are presented.

EPILEPTICS

There are in our institution 105 epileptics or 25% of our total population. Of these 50% would undoubtedly do better if segregated and given the more special benefit recommended at this time for their class. I have no cause to change my ideas on the subject of the care of these individuals as given in the following quoted from an article written in 1906.

"In this, as in most states, the epileptics under state control are scattered through all the public institutions, but their numbers are chiefly found in the hospitals for insane and the feeble minded institution. All but a very small percentage of these individuals

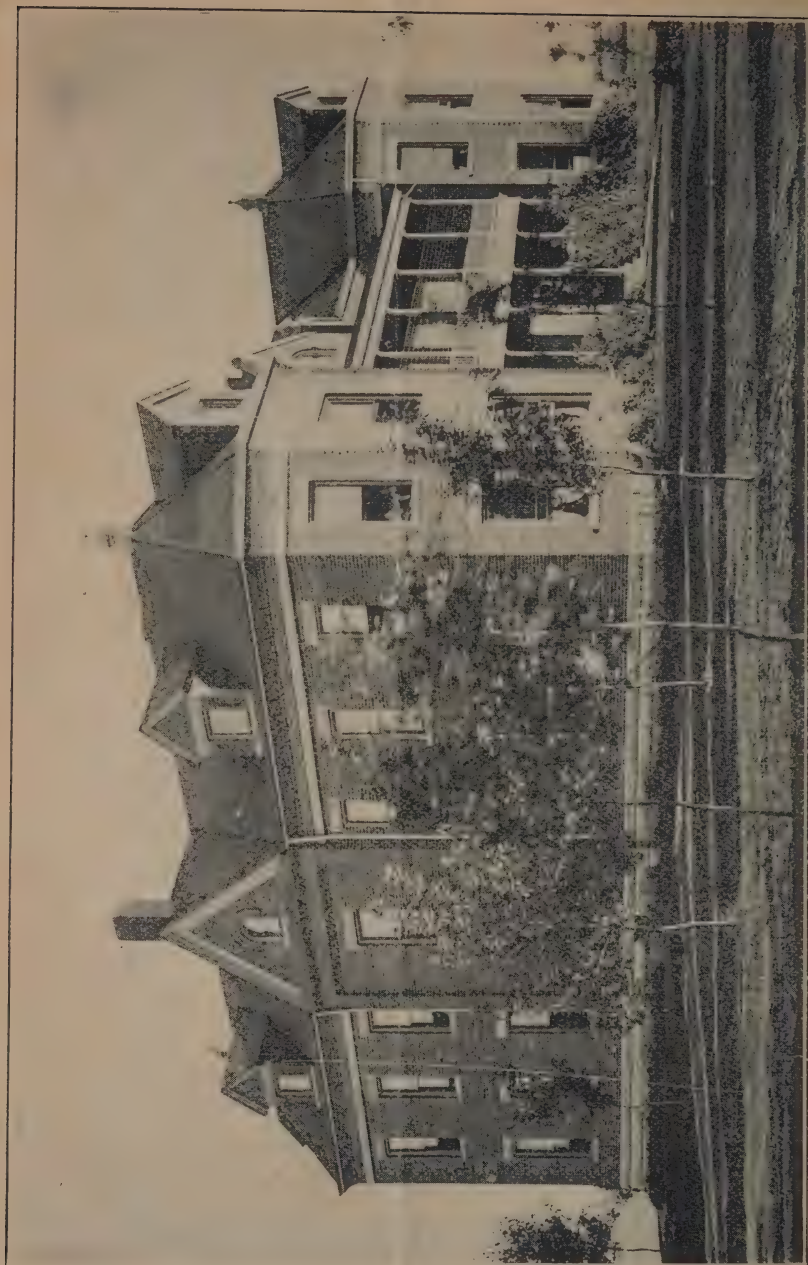
are mentally defective and might be well classed in these institutions; but the 'colony idea,' as best exemplified in New York and Massachusetts, has proven that the results are uniformly better where they receive care in an especially equipped institution. Kindergarten and elemental school work, sloyd and manual training, colonies for the adult where his early training may continue and become of productive value, and finally custodial care for the criminal, infirm and insane,—an application of all these together with the best hygienic, dietetic, and medicinal measures,—experience is teaching us, offer the epileptic the most promising means of recovery.

In as small a state as Nebraska, a separate institution is not as practical from an economic point of view as it is in a more thickly populated state, but here there should be a classification with separate buildings and grounds according to the requirements of sex, physical and mental conditions, the whole to be under the management of one of the other institutions."

Since the writing of the above, thought along this line is being given considerable attention by people of our state who are charitably inclined. The Genoa Indian School property, should it be donated by the government to our state, has been suggested as a suitable location for such a colony. This property would offer splendid facilities for the care of epileptics and I believe that such an institution could in a short time be put upon a practically self supporting basis. Not the least of the many advantages given by such a movement would be the relieving of other institutions of the state at the present time housing epileptics whom they cannot properly care for. It would, while taking from our own institution many of its most profitable inmates, relieve the congested condition existing here so that our present accommodations would be sufficient for some time to come.

FARM AND GARDEN

In addition to the 222 acres of our own land we have rented during both years 40 acres of adjoining property. All of this land has been under cultivation with the exception of that occupied by the buildings and about 40 acres of pasture. Our crops have been better than those of surrounding land because of our having an abundance of help but we have been handicapped by the lack of implements and horses.



BOYS' NEW COTTAGE

By the purchase of a thoroughbred Holstein animal from the Kearney Industrial School, we are gradually building up the grade of our herd and the same is being accomplished with our hogs.

More gardening has been attempted during the past season than heretofore and besides the large amount of produce used for summer consumption we have a good supply stored for winter use. Below is given a tabulated statement of the principal farm and garden products for the biennium.

FARM PRODUCTS RAISED

	1907	1908	Total
Oats.....	840 bushels	908 bushels	1748 bushels
Wheat.....	1062 bushels	765 bushels	1827 bushels
Corn.....	1850 bushels	1500 bushels	3350 bushels
Timothy and clover....	12 tons	15 tons	27 tons
Alfalfa.....	20 tons	18 tons	38 tons
Millet.....	50 tons		50 tons
Cane.....	90 tons	75 tons	165 tons
Hay.....	4 tons		4 tons
Potatoes.....	450 bushels	1250 bushels	1700 bushels
Sweet Potatoes.....	110 bushels	150 bushels	260 bushels
Sweet Corn.....	200 bushels	200 bushels	400 bushels
Tomatoes.....	150 bushels	450 bushels	600 bushels
Onions.....	40 bushels	175 bushels	215 bushels
Parsnips.....	10 bushels	170 bushels	180 bushels
Turnips.....	300 bushels	150 bushels	450 bushels
Carrots.....	20 bushels	50 bushels	70 bushels
Beets.....	20 bushels	100 bushels	120 bushels
String Beans.....	25 bushels	50 bushels	75 bushels
Peas.....	20 bushels	40 bushels	60 bushels
Radishes.....	40 bushels	50 bushels	90 bushels
Cucumbers.....	15 bushels	25 bushels	45 bushels
Cabbage.....	1000 heads	2000 heads	3000 heads
Rhubarb.....	25 bushels	10 bushels	35 bushels
Lettuce.....	50 bushels	50 bushels	100 bushels
Spinach.....	50 bushels	50 bushels	100 bushels
Green Onions.....	100 bushels	75 bushels	175 bushels
Egg Fruit.....		10 dozens	10 dozens
Hubbard Squash.....	5 dozens	50 dozens	55 dozens
Summer Squash.....	40 dozens		40 dozens

Watermelons.....	200		200
Cantaloupes	10 bushels		10 bushels
Early Turnips.....	15 bushels	30 bushels	45 bushels
Strawberries.....	4 bushels	3 bushels	7 bushels
Apples.....		10 bushels	10 bushels
Peaches.....		100 bushels	100 bushels
Milk.....	3640 gallons	3700 gallons	7340 gallons

PLAY GROUNDS AND AMUSEMENTS

The children's dances twice a week have been continued where, in addition to dancing, games are played. Occasionally a purely social gathering is given where light refreshments are served. Vaudeville, juggling and stereopticon entertainments have occurred from time to time. During the summer months base ball, foot ball, and basket ball are indulged in by the boys while the girls amuse themselves in their own way on the lawns. Band concerts and various contests form a diversion for the summer holidays. On all holidays during the school year the teachers and children prepare special programs to which parents and friends are invited.

IMPROVEMENTS

My first work was the enlargement of our oven in the bakery so that it will be sufficient for our needs for some time to come.

This was followed by the expenditure of about \$1,900.00 for an addition to our laundry which left a balance of the \$2,500.00 appropriation that proved sufficient for putting in steel ceilings in the old part of the laundry where needed and also for the construction of a new and enlarged dry room.

There has been added to our fire equipment 250 feet of hose, a hose cart, extension ladders, axes, extinguishers, a fire gong for the main building, etc., and all of these have been placed so that we are ready as far as possible to meet anything of this nature that we have so fortunately escaped in the past.

Several hundred square feet of cement sidewalk were laid and cement floors were placed in the vegetable cave and coal bins.

The dairy barn has long been greatly in need of repairs. The old floors were taken out and in place the space below filled with cinders and a cement floor and stanchions constructed. This gives us a comparatively modern and hygienic structure.

The \$1,000.00 appropriation for porches for the hospital was hardly sufficient and it required considerable planning to procure

something suitable and yet keep within our appropriation. We have, however, completed a large roomy porch which adds materially not only to the appearance of this building but to its utility as well.

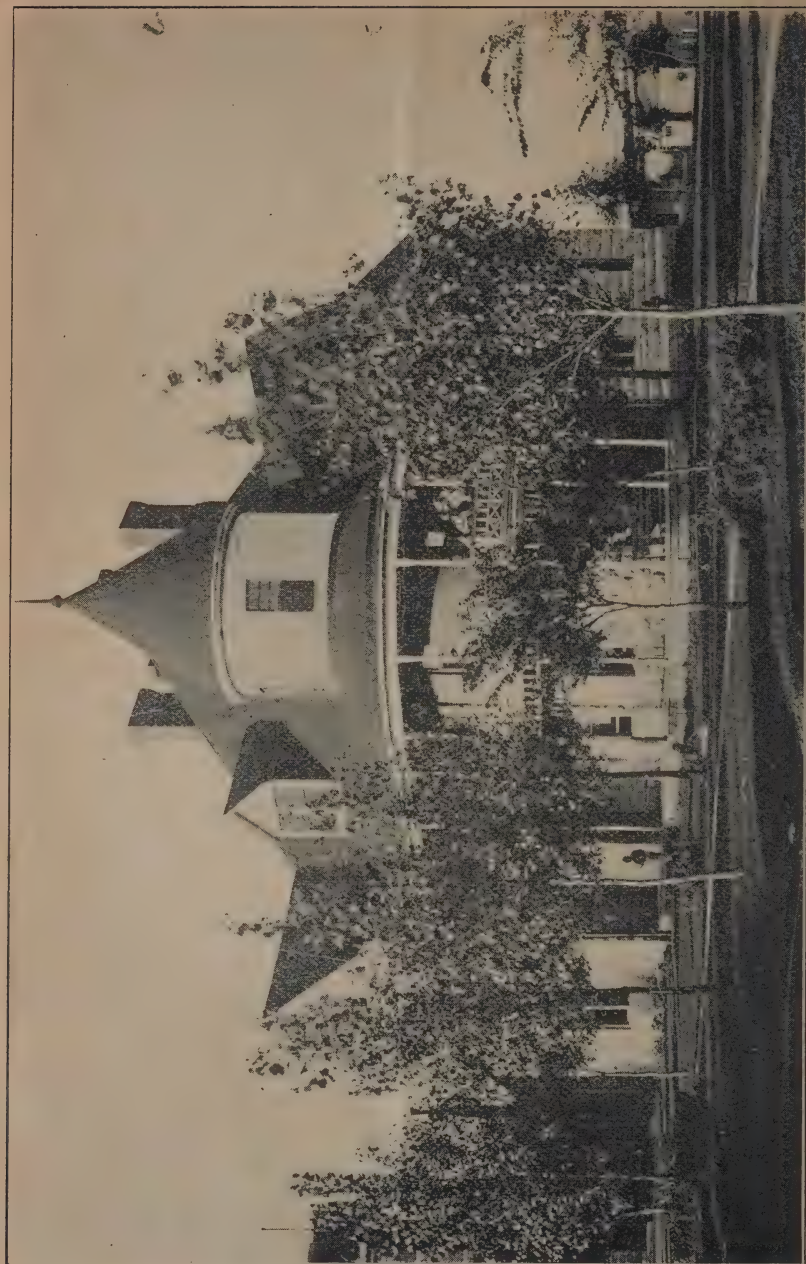
An appropriation of \$1,000.00 had been made for an ice house. For various reasons this was not built until late in the fall and the very sparse supply of ice in this locality last winter did not give us an opportunity to use it but we have a well constructed building sufficient for our needs ready for the coming winter.

Other minor improvements such as a new porch floor with brick and stone foundation for the old boys' cottage, painting and repairing of practically all the roofs and pointing of brick work and chimneys has been done. The usual amount of painting, varnishing and kalsomining necessary has been going on in all of the buildings. The greater part of all minor improvements has been done by the aid of our own help and without additional expense to the state except that for material.

NEEDS

There are at present 58 applications on file of those awaiting admission. - Added to these 29 whom we now have in excess of our capacity and 6 who are on vacation leaves at the present time 93 for whom accommodations should be made. In addition to this number, account should be taken of the normal increase between now and such a time as buildings can be constructed and equipped and also for a number desiring admission who have not made formal application because of the known crowded condition existing here. To this end I would suggest the construction of three new buildings, one each for boys and girls and one school building. The latter should be a commodious fire-proof two-story structure, with assembly hall, furnished complete and connected with the power plant, for which should be expended not less than \$40,000.00. Our present assembly hall on the fourth floor of the main building is totally inadequate for our needs and because of its location is not accessible to many of our children. The school rooms on the upper floors of this building have the same disadvantages.

The boiler house and lighting plant is taxed to its utmost at present. Any increase in dormitories or by a school building will necessitate an enlargement of this structure. The smoke stack, struck by lightning a few years ago and repaired, is, besides being



BOYS' OLD COTTAGE

antiquated and the source of a great waste of fuel, in a dilapidated condition.

I would also recommend the construction of a new horse barn for which \$2,500.00 has been asked.

Fire escapes should be placed for the upper floors of both girls' cottages, the hospital and both boys' cottages. The old boys' cottage is especially in need of the same as the only exit from the third floor dormitories where there are some forty boys is by means of one narrow stairway.

The wiring in five of our buildings is not modern, the wires being concealed and passing through the joists without insulation in some instances. I would recommend that this wiring be changed from the concealed to such as is required by insurance companies.

I would also recommend the installation of a telephone system connecting the different buildings, to be used for a fire alarm system as well, and for the farm the purchase of two work teams and an appropriation for vehicles and farm appliances.

Based on an expected increase in population, I would recommend the following appropriations:

Maintenance.....	\$70,000.00
Employes' wages.....	32,000.00
Superintendent's salary.....	5,000.00
Physician's salary.....	3,000.00
Steward's salary.....	2,400.00
Teachers' salaries.....	6,000.00
Chaplain's salary.....	200.00
General repairs.....	3,500.00
Horse barn.....	2,500.00
Resetting boilers.....	1,500.00
Engine and generator.....	1,750.00
Boiler house repairs and smoke stack.....	2,500.00
A school building, boys' cottage and girls' cottage furnished complete.....	100,000.00

STEWARD AND PHYSICIAN

The institution has now reached a stage where the services of both a physician and a steward are needed. All of the superintendent's time should be given to the executive work of the institution while the position as purchasing agent and custodian of clothing, all of which is furnished at either private or county expense, would

occupy the entire time of one individual. The physician's services should be devoted entirely to the medical side of the work.

CHANGE OF ADMINISTRATION

On September 1, 1907, Dr. A. Johnson who had creditably managed the affairs of the institution and brought it to a high degree of efficiency, resigned his position to return to the practice of his profession. My appointment to the superintendency took place on the same date and Dr. Samuel J. Stewart, a successful practitioner of Lincoln, was appointed to the position of physician.

IN CONCLUSION

I wish to thank you, gentlemen, for your ever ready and willing counsel and support which has been of great assistance in the management of the institution, and all connected with the institution for their uniform loyalty and cooperation.

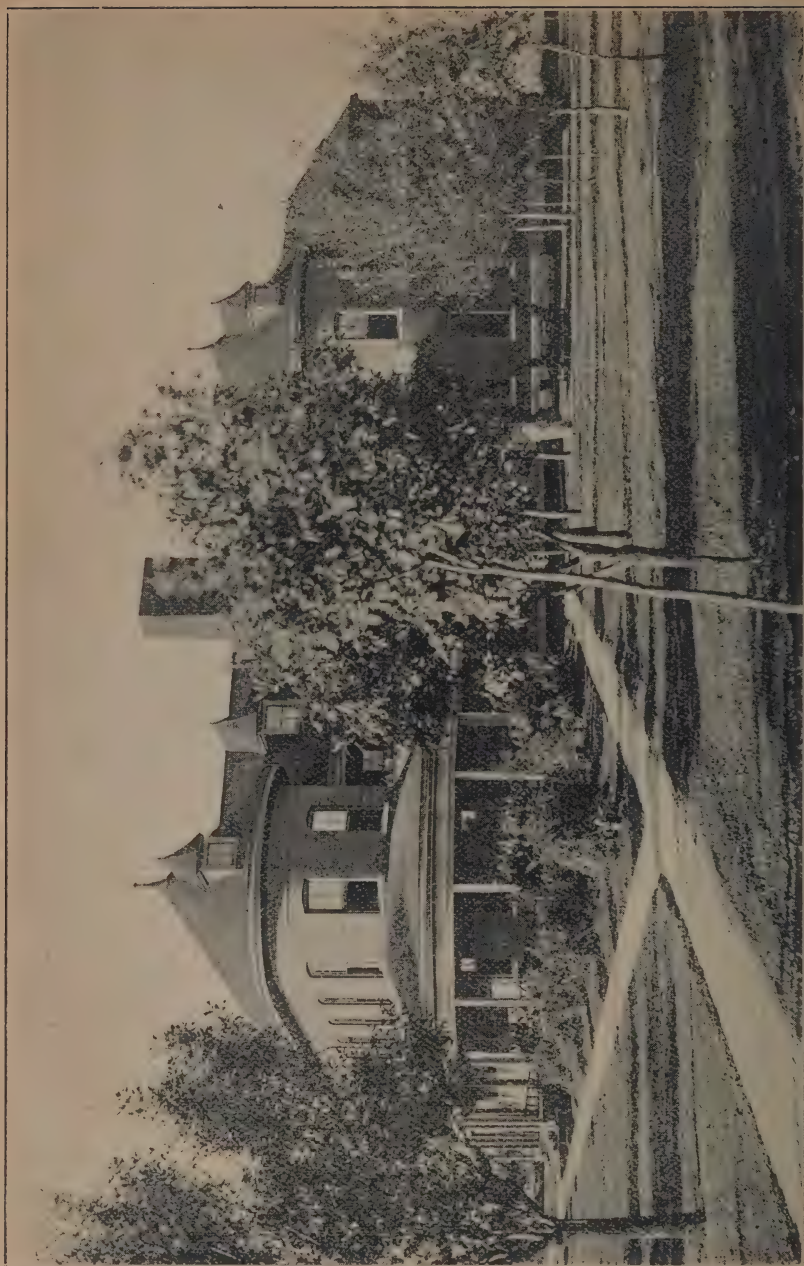
Respectfully submitted,

FRANK E. OSBORN, Superintendent

APPENDIX

POPULATION OF INSTITUTION BY COUNTIES

County	Male	Female	Total
Antelope.....	3	2	5
Adams.....	4	6	10
Boone.....	6	....	6
Brown.....	1	....	1
Burt.....	1	2	3
Butler.....	4	3	7
Buffalo.....	3	....	3
Box Butte.....	1	1	2
Boyd.....	1	4	5
Cass.....	6	5	11
Cedar.....	3	6	9
Cheyenne.....	2	....	2
Clay.....	4	6	10
Colfax.....	1	....	1
Cuming.....	4	1	5
Custer.....	4	2	6
Dakota.....	2	1	3
Dawes.....	1	1	2
Dawson.....	5	3	8
Dixon.....	5	2	7
Dodge.....	5	3	8
Douglas.....	45	21	66
Fillmore.....	4	5	9
Franklin.....	..	1	1
Frontier.....	3	....	3
Furnas.....	2	1	3
Gage.....	10	14	24
Garfield.....	1	1	2
Greeley.....	2	....	2
Hall.....	3	3	6
Hamilton.....	1	3	4
Harlan.....	1	....	1
Hayes.....	..	1	1



GIRLS' OLD COTTAGE. "ARMSTRONG HALL"

Hitchcock.....	1	....	1
Holt.....	3	2	5
Howard.....	2	1	3
Jefferson.....	1	2	3
Johnson.....	3	1	4
Kearney.....	..	1	1
Keith.....	2	2	4
Knox.....	..	1	1
Lancaster.....	17	16	33
Lincoln.....	2	7	9
Madison.....	2	1	3
Merrick.....	1	....	1
Nance.....	1	2	3
Nemaha.....	2	4	6
Nuckolls.....	3	5	8
Otoe.....	5	6	11
Pawnee.....	6	3	9
Phelps.....	3	1	4
Pierce.....	..	2	2
Platte.....	5	4	9
Polk.....	3	....	3
Perkins.....	3	....	3
Red Willow.....	3	3	6
Richardson.....	1	5	6
Saline.....	5	6	11
Sarpy.....	3	1	4
Saunders.....	4	2	6
Seward.....	1	1	2
Sherman.....	1	3	4
Stanton.....	1	3	4
Scotts Bluff.....	..	1	1
Thurston.....	2	....	2
Thayer.....	5	1	6
Valley.....	2	1	3
Washington.....	3	1	4
Wayne.....	1	....	1
Webster.....	3	3	6
York.....	4	8	12
Total.....	242	198	440

OUR OWN GROWN FRUIT AND VERETABLES PRESERVED FOR
WINTER'S USE

825 gallons tomatoes	155 gallons green tomatoes
65 gallons canned peaches	100 gallons peach butter
525 gallons salted corn	50 gallons cucumber pickles
260 gallons sauer kraut	40 gallons cherries

CASH REPORT FROM SEMI-ANNUALS

December 1, 1906 to June 1, 1907

Balance on hand November 30, 1906	\$347.92
Received since	54.25

402.17

Expended since November 30, 1907	393.45
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Balance on hand May 30, 1907	8.72
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June 1, 1907 to December 1, 1907

Balance on hand May 31, 1907	8.72
Received since	488.06

496.78

Expended since May 31, 1907	\$135.88
Balance on hand with State Treasurer	215.20
Cash on hand and in bank	145.70
	496.78

December 1, 1907 to June 1, 1908

Cash on hand last report—

At institution	\$145.70
State Treasurer	215.20
	360.90

Expenditures	\$217.80
Receipts	47.75
Balance on hand May 31, 1908	190.85
	360.90

June 1, 1908 to December 1, 1908

Balance on hand last report	\$190.85
Receipts	70.45
	261.30

Expenditures	112.85
Balance on hand November 30, 1908	148.45
	261.30

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